



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,575	02/20/2004	Kapenda J. Thomas	TKAP-1-1003	7726
25315 7590 01/23/2007 BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM, PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 4800 SEATTLE, WA 98104			EXAMINER AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2166	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/783,575

Applicant(s)

THOMAS, KAPENDA J.

Examiner

Navneet K. Ahluwalia

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed November 13, 2006.

Response to Arguments

2. Claims 1 – 27 are pending in this Office Action. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application, claims 1 – 27 remain rejected. The objection to claim 25 is withdrawn in view of the amendment. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to claims 1 – 27 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

First, Applicant argues that there is no teaching in Dutta about filtering the data to produce a data subset.

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner submits that Dutta discloses in paragraph 0057 that a broad search query is sent to many nodes and executed, it also discloses that the search query may run through some filter to produce results. Furthermore these results are then meshed by result compilation/merging to produce formatted search hits to the client.

Second, Applicant argues that Bin does not teach the content inclusion based upon designated users and that there is no motivation for the combination.

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner submits that Bin teaches the content inclusion based on designated users in page 66 section 2 Referral Systems paragraphs 1 – 5 where information is relied on or included because of a referral that

was confident and reliable, Bin. As explained in the previous office action it would be obvious to combine the two references because the content inclusion based on the designated users provides more accurate results to queries (page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraphs 2 – 4, Bin). Also, the collaborative filtering functions towards effective and efficient results (page 71 section 5.3 Matchmaking Systems paragraph 4, Bin)

Other claims recite the same subject matter and for the same reasons as cited above the rejection is maintained.

Hence, Applicant's arguments do not distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record. In light of the foregoing arguments, the 103 rejections are sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dutta et al. ('Dutta' herein after) (US 2002/0073075 A1) further in view of "Searching Social Networks" by Bin Yu and Munindar P. Singh ('Bin' herein after).

Art Unit: 2166

With respect to claim 1,

Dutta discloses a method for filtering Internet content, the method comprising:

- receiving a search query message comprising a search query to an Internet search engine (paragraph 0061, Dutta);
- receiving data from the Internet search engine, the data being responsive to the search query message (paragraph 0060, Dutta);
- filtering the data to produce a data subset, the filter selecting data for inclusion in the data subset based upon occurrence of the data in a database (paragraphs 0063 – 0064, Dutta); the database comprising content selected for inclusion by designated users; and
- displaying the data subset in a browser (figure 5B, Dutta).

Dutta however does not disclose the designated users explicitly as claimed.

Bin teaches the content inclusion based on the designated users explained as a referral system maintaining a social network (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references work towards producing accurate and relevant query results efficiently. Furthermore, the content inclusion based on the designated users would definitely provide more accurate results to queries (page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraphs 2 – 4, Bin). Also, the collaborative filtering functions towards effective and efficient results (page 71 section 5.3 Matchmaking Systems paragraph 4, Bin).

5. Claims 2 - 4 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 1. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 2,

Dutta discloses the method of claim 1, the filtering being further based upon the occurrence the search query in the database (paragraphs 0063 and 0070, Dutta).

With respect to claim 3,

Bin teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the designated users are users designated based upon a role (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems paragraph 1, Bin).

With respect to claim 4,

Bin teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the designated users are users designated based upon personal familiarity (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems paragraphs 1 – 3, Bin).

With respect to claim 5,

Dutta discloses a computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a distributed data processing system for searching for information within the distributed data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

- instructions for receiving a search query message comprising a search query to an Internet search engine (paragraph 0061, Dutta);
- instructions for receiving data from the Internet search engine, the data being responsive to the search query message (paragraph 0060, Dutta);
- instructions for filtering the data to produce a data subset, the filter selecting data for inclusion in the data subset based upon occurrence of the data in a database (paragraphs 0063 – 0064, Dutta); the database comprising content selected for inclusion by designated users; and
- instructions for displaying the data subset in a browser (figure 5B, Dutta).

Dutta however does not disclose the designated users explicitly as claimed.

Bin teaches the content inclusion based on the designated users explained as a referral system maintaining a social network (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references work towards producing accurate and relevant query results efficiently. Furthermore, the content inclusion based on the designated users would definitely provide more accurate results to queries (page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraphs 2 – 4, Bin). Also, the collaborative filtering functions towards effective and efficient results (page 71 section 5.3 Matchmaking Systems paragraph 4, Bin).

6. Claims 6 – 8 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 5. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 6,

Dutta discloses the computer program product of claim 5, the instructions for filtering being further based upon the occurrence the search query in the database (paragraphs 0063 and 0070, Dutta).

With respect to claim 7,

Bin teaches the computer program product of claim 5, wherein the designated users are users designated based upon a role (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems paragraph 1, Bin).

With respect to claim 8,

Bin teaches the computer program product of claim 5, wherein the designated users are users designated based upon personal familiarity (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems paragraphs 1 – 3, Bin).

With respect to claim 9,

Dutta discloses an apparatus for searching for information within a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

- a first receiving component for receiving a search query message comprising a search query to an Internet search engine (paragraph 0061, Dutta);

- a second receiving component for receiving data from the Internet search engine, the data being responsive to the search query message (paragraph 0060, Dutta);
- a filtering component for filtering the data to produce a data subset, the filter selecting data for inclusion in the data subset based upon occurrence of the data in a database (paragraphs 0063 – 0064, Dutta); the database comprising content selected for inclusion by designated users; and
- a displaying component for displaying the data subset in a browser (figure 5B, Dutta).

Dutta however does not disclose the designated users explicitly as claimed.

Bin teaches the content inclusion based on the designated users explained as a referral system maintaining a social network (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references work towards producing accurate and relevant query results efficiently. Furthermore, the content inclusion based on the designated users would definitely provide more accurate results to queries (page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraphs 2 – 4, Bin). Also, the collaborative filtering functions towards effective and efficient results (page 71 section 5.3 Matchmaking Systems paragraph 4, Bin).

7. Claims 10 – 12 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 9. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 10,

Dutta discloses the apparatus of claim 9, the filtering component being further based upon the occurrence the search query in the database (paragraphs 0063 and 0070, Dutta).

With respect to claim 11,

Bin teaches the apparatus of claim 9, wherein the designated users are users designated based upon a role (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems paragraph 1, Bin).

With respect to claim 12,

Bin teaches the apparatus of claim 9, wherein the designated users are users designated based upon personal familiarity (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems paragraphs 1 – 3, Bin).

With respect to claim 13,

Dutta discloses a method for searching for information within a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

- receiving, at a server, a search query message comprising a search query from a client to an Internet search engine (paragraph 0061, Dutta);
- performing a intersystem search of a database in accordance with the search query (paragraph 0059, Dutta);

- compiling search result data from the intersystem search (paragraph 0059, Dutta);
- receiving a result message from the Internet search engine (paragraphs 0060 and 0062, Dutta); and
- merging search result data and the result message to generate result information (paragraph 0064, Dutta);
- generating a display with the result information (figure 5B, Dutta).

Dutta however does not disclose the designated users explicitly as claimed.

Bin teaches the content inclusion based on the designated users explained as a referral system maintaining a social network (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references work towards producing accurate and relevant query results efficiently. Furthermore, the content inclusion based on the designated users would definitely provide more accurate results to queries (page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraphs 2 – 4, Bin). Also, the collaborative filtering functions towards effective and efficient results (page 71 section 5.3 Matchmaking Systems paragraph 4, Bin).

8. Claims 14 – 17 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 13. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 14,

Art Unit: 2166

Dutta discloses the method of claim 13 wherein: performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search on a hierarchical network (paragraph 0041, Dutta and page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraph 2, Bin).

With respect to claim 15,

Dutta discloses the method of claim 13 wherein: performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search on a peer-to-peer network (paragraph 0052, Dutta).

With respect to claim 16,

Dutta discloses the method of claim 13 wherein: performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search of the database (paragraph 0059, Dutta), the database including identities of a plurality of selected users (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

With respect to claim 17,

Bin teaches the method of claim 16 further comprising: filtering search result data according to data stored in association with the plurality of selected users (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

With respect to claim 18,

Dutta discloses a computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a distributed data processing system for searching for information within the distributed data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

- instructions for receiving, at a server, a search query message comprising a search query from a client to an Internet search engine (paragraph 0061, Dutta);
- instructions for performing a intersystem search of a database in accordance with the search query (paragraph 0059, Dutta);
- instructions for compiling search result data from the intersystem search (paragraph 0059, Dutta);
- instructions for receiving a result message from the Internet search engine (paragraphs 0060 and 0062, Dutta); and
- instructions for merging search result data and the result message to generate result information (paragraph 0064, Dutta);
- instructions for generating a display with the result information (figure 5B, Dutta).

Dutta however does not disclose the designated users explicitly as claimed.

Bin teaches the content inclusion based on the designated users explained as a referral system maintaining a social network (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references work towards producing accurate and relevant query results

efficiently. Furthermore, the content inclusion based on the designated users would definitely provide more accurate results to queries (page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraphs 2 – 4, Bin). Also, the collaborative filtering functions towards effective and efficient results (page 71 section 5.3 Matchmaking Systems paragraph 4, Bin).

9. Claims 19 – 22, 27 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 18. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 19,

Dutta discloses the computer program product of claim 18 wherein: performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search on a hierarchical network (paragraph 0041, Dutta and page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraph 2, Bin).

With respect to claim 20,

Dutta discloses the computer program product of claim 18 wherein: performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search on a peer-to-peer network (paragraph 0052, Dutta).

With respect to claim 21,

Dutta discloses the computer program product of claim 18 wherein: performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search of the database (paragraph 0059, Dutta), the database including identities of a plurality of selected users (page 66

section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

With respect to claim 22,

The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising: instructions for filtering search result data according to data stored in association with the plurality of selected users.

With respect to claim 23,

Dutta discloses an apparatus for searching for information within a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

- a first receiving component for receiving, at a server, a search query message comprising a search query from a client to an Internet search engine (paragraph 0061, Dutta);
- a searching component for performing a intersystem search of a database in accordance with the search query (paragraph 0059, Dutta);
- a compiling component for compiling search result data from the intersystem search (paragraph 0059, Dutta);
- a second receiving component for receiving a result message from the Internet search engine (paragraphs 0060 and 0062, Dutta); and
- a composing component for merging search result data and the result message to generate result information (paragraph 0064, Dutta);

- a generating component for generating a display with the result information (figure 5B, Dutta).

Dutta however does not disclose the designated users explicitly as claimed.

Bin teaches the content inclusion based on the designated users explained as a referral system maintaining a social network (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references work towards producing accurate and relevant query results efficiently. Furthermore, the content inclusion based on the designated users would definitely provide more accurate results to queries (page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraphs 2 – 4, Bin). Also, the collaborative filtering functions towards effective and efficient results (page 71 section 5.3 Matchmaking Systems paragraph 4, Bin).

10. Claims 24 – 26 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 23. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 24,

Dutta discloses the apparatus of claim 23 wherein: the searching component for performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search on a hierarchical network (paragraph 0041, Dutta and page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraph 2, Bin).

With respect to claim 25,

Dutta discloses the apparatus of claim 23 wherein: the searching component for performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search on a relational database (paragraph 0041, Dutta and page 65 section 1 Introduction paragraph 2, Bin).

With respect to claim 26,

Dutta discloses the apparatus of claim 23 wherein: the searching component for performing the intersystem search is performing the intersystem search of the database (paragraph 0059, Dutta), the database including identities of a plurality of selected users (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

With respect to claim 27,

Bin teaches the computer program product of claim 18 further comprising: a filtering component for filtering search result data according to data stored in association with the plurality of selected users (page 66 section 2 Referral Systems, Bin).

Conclusion

11. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2166

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Navneet

Navneet K. Ahluwalia
Examiner
Art Unit 2166

MOHAMMAD ALI
MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Dated: 01/17/2007